

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 EUR-12 /068 W
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R 050152Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7131
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, SOCI, CB
SUBJECT: REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC
KAMPUCHEA

REF: (A) STATE 157953 (B) BANGKOK 17849 (C) BANGKOK 18288

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS AN INTERVIEW OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEE
SOURCE U, NAME: SREP SARANG. (NAME MAY BE USED IN USG
DOCUMENTATION FOR UNHRC.) INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED AT PRASAT,
SURIN, JUNE 16, 1978.

2. SREP SARANG, 30, CAME FROM KOUK CHREY VILLAGE, SASAK
SDAM, SIEMP REAL PROVINCE. HE ARRIVED ALONE IN THAILAND
MAY 17, 1978. HIS ACCOUNT FOLLOWS:

3. CONDITIONS OF LIVING IN DEMORATIC KAMPUCHEA QTE DURING
THE HARVEST, WE HAD A LITTLE RICE, BUT WE USUALLY HAD
GRUEL. WE GOT THE EQUIVALENT OF TWO U.S. ARMY CANTEENS OF
GRUEL A DAY. BEGINNING IN 1978, WE GOT ONE DAY OFF
AFTER TEN DAYS OF WORK. BEFORE THAT WE WORKED EVERY DAY.
DURING THE DAY OFF, WE WERE ALLOWED TO GO AND LOOK FOR FOOD.
SOMETIMES WE COULD FIND A FROG OR A CRAB. I LOOK FAT NOW,
BUT AFTER STARVING SO LONG, YOU SWELL WHEN YOU
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FINALLY GET SOME FOOD.

4. QTE IN KOUK CHREY THERE ARE 100 FAMILIES, OR ABOUT 400
PEOPLE; MOST WERE WOMEN. IN LATE 1975, THERE WAS A PERIOD
OF STARVATION. LOTS OF MEN DIED OF HUNGER. WOMEN SEEM
TO BE ABLE TO SURVIVE BETTER.

5. EXECUTIONS QTE IN 1975, I WAS TOLD BY THE KHMER ROUGE TO DIG GRAVES. I WAS TOLD THAT THE GRAVES WERE FOR THE EDUCATED PEOPLE, THE WIVES OF SOLDIERS AND TEACHERS. I ALSO DUG EIGHT HOLES WHERE EIGHTEEN FORMER SOLDIERS WERE BURIED. THESE GRAVES WERE IN TRAPEANG KHIM. LATER IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT I HAD BEEN A LOCAL MILITIA CHIEF. AFTER THAT, I WAS NO LONGER USED BY THE KHMER ROUGE TO DIG HOLES.

6. QTE IN 1976-77 THE GUILTY WOULD BE EXECUTED ALONE: AFTER LATE 1977 AND IN 1978 THE GUILTY AND HIS FAMILY ALSO WERE EXECUTED, EVEN FOR A MINOR OFFENSE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU WERE EXECUTED FOR BEING LATE TO WORK, YOUR FAMILY WOULD BE EXECUTED TOO. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN BECAUSE OF THE LEADER. IN 1975, THE HEAD OF THE NORTHERN SECTOR IN SIEM REAP, ANMED SOT, WAS NOT TOO STRICT. SOT WAS FOUND TO BE A TRAITOR AND WAS REPLACED IN LATE 1977 BY SE WHO WAS MORE STRICT. SE FOLLOWED THE POLICY OF KILLING WIVES AND CHILDREN OF FORMER SOLDIERS AND TEACHERS. SE SAID THAT WIVES WERE THE VESTIGES OF THE OLD SOCIETY AND ARE STILL CORRUPT.

7. QTE I SAW LOTS OF EXECUTIONS BECAUSE I DROVE BULLOCK CARTS FROM POUL DISTRICT TO MY VILLAGE KOUL CHREY. AFTER THE PAST HARVEST, LOT OF PEOPLE, BUT MAINLY WOMEN, WERE KILLED IN POUK DISTRICT. THERE WERE ALSO SEVENTEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FAMILIES WHO WERE TAKEN TO TREI NHOR AND KILLED. A FELLOW WHO USED TO WORK FOR THE KHMER ROUGE, BUT WHO HAS BECOME DISAFFECTED, TOLD ME ABOUT THIS. FOUR OF THE FAMILIES HAD MEN. THE REST WERE WIDOWS WITH KIDS, EVEN PREGNANT ONES. THEY WERE TAKEN TO TRAI NHOR SO THE VILLAGERS WOULD NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM.

8. QTE IN FEBRUARY, 1978 100 FAMILIES IN SAMRAONG YEA, SIEM REAP, ROSE UP AND KILLED 2 KHMER ROUGE. WHEN THIS WAS KNOWN, THE KHMER ROUGE SENT THIRTY SOLDIERS TO SAMRAONG YEA IN POUK DISTRICT AND THE OTHER SURROUNDING VILLAGES IN POUK DISTRICT TO KILL THE VILLAGERS. THE PEOPLE FLED, BUT THE KHMER ROUGE HUNTED THEM DOWN AND KILLED MOST OF THE 3,000-4,000 WHO LIVED IN NINE VILLAGES. THE PEOPLE ONLY HAD KNIVES BUT THE KHMER ROUGE HAD AK-47 RIFLES. THE PEOPLE ROSE UP BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT GET ENOUGH TO EAT AND HAD NO FREEDOM.

9. QTE I WAS TAKEN TO BE KILLED BY THE KHMER ROUGE IN DECEMBER, 1977. THERE WAS A SERIOUS FOOD SHORTAGE AND HUNGER RIGHT BEFORE THE HARVEST. A FATHER AND HIS SON KILLED A WATER BUFFALO FOR FOOD FOR THEMSELVES

AND THE OTHER VILLAGERS. I DID NOT KILL THE BUFFALO
BUT ASKED FOR SOME MEAT. THE KHMER ROUGE FOUND OUT
AND TOOK THE FATHER, SON AND ME TO JAIL. THERE WERE
FIFTEEN OTHERS THERE WAITING TO BE EXECUTED. AFTER
FIFTEEN DAYS IN JAIL, SEVEN KHMER ROUGE TOOK THE EIGHTEEN
OF US, TO A PLACE FOUR KILOMETERS AWAY CALLED
KANHCHOAN SVEY. ALL EIGHTEEN OF US WERE TIED TOGETHER.
THREE KHMER ROUGE DUG A HOLE FOR OUR CORPSES. WHILE
THEY WERE DIGGING THE HOLE, I UNTIED MYSELF AND FLED.

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I WAS VERY SKINNY SINCE WE GOT ONLY ONE BOWL OF GRUEL
A DAY IN THE PRISON. I HID IN THE RICE FIELDS. FINALLY,
I CRAWLED TO THE HUT OF MY FATHER. HE WAS SUGAR PALM
WORKER AND RECEIVED AN EXTRA RATION OF RICE BECAUSE THE
WORK WAS SO HARD. I THEN MADE MY WAY TO A PLACE NEAR
TONLE SAY WHERE RELATIVES LIVED. EVERYONE WANTED TO HELP
ME SINCE EVERYONE HATES THE KHMER ROUGE, BUT NO ONE KNEW
WHAT TO DO. I HID OUT FOR MANY WEEKS AND FINALLY ESCAPED
TO THAILAND.

10. QTE BEFORE I MADE IT TO THAILAND, I RAN INTO A
NEIGHBOR WHO TOLD ME THAT MY WIFE, KUM KU, 19, SON
SARONG SARUN, 5, AND SISTER-IN-LAW KUM MEY, 11, HAD
BEEN KILLED BY THE KHMER ROUGE.

11. HUMAN, CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS QTE THERE ARE
NO HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA. THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
POLICY IS TO HAVE GENUINE COMMUNISM IN CAMBODIA. THE
KHMER ROUGE KEEP TELLING THE PEOPLE, "THIS IS
COMMUNISM." RELIGION IS NO LONGER ALLOWED. THERE WAS
A WAT NEAR OUR VILLAGE. THE BUDDHA IMAGES IN IT WERE ALL

SMASHED, AND THE PLACE WAS DEMOLISHED. THEY TOOK THE
REINFORCING G BARS FROM THE BUILDING TO CONSTRUCT DAMS.
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO KEEP YOU CHILDREN.
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THEY ARE TAKEN AWAY FROM THEIR PARENTS AT AGE SIX TO
WORK. WHAT PEOPLE WANT IS THE SAME LIFE THAT THEY HAD BEORE.
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